



COUNTY OF POLK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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May 14, 2002

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Nathan Brooks
4th District
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5th District
286-3118

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Committed
District 1-5-2002

RE: Merger Proposal between Hughes and EchoStar

Dear Mr. Powell:

I wanted to take a moment and express my opinion on the merger proposal between Hughes and EchoStar. Technology is moving faster and faster, and improvements in the quality of products offered to consumers are also increasing rapidly. Innovation is the keystone of the growth that we've seen, especially when it comes to broadband.

I think the merger proposal between EchoStar and Hughes is innovative as well. Instead of sparring with each other while consumers in the hinterlands while away the hours with their AM radios, the two satellite providers have signed off on an innovative partnership that would bring high-speed internet access and a wide menu of pay-TV offerings to the often forgotten rural population in America. Not only that, a "new EchoStar" has promised a nationwide pricing plan that would leave no one area footing the bill for others.

This is a great idea – and one that we've needed for a long time. I hope you'll do everything possible to move this merger quickly along the approval process.

Sincerely,

Jack Bishop
Jack Bishop, Chairman

Polk County Board of Supervisors

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